MIRACLE POWER (SUPERNATURAL) OF JAGANNATH DEVA

Astika Das

Dr. Madhusudan Krishna Das

Introduction

Shree Jagannath Deva is one of the baibhav expression of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Krishna (baibhav expression is when the Supreme Lord Krishna express / appear in different forms for example:- Baladeva Prabhu is a baibhav expression of Krishna). This is why the Supreme Personality of Godhead Jagannath Deva became a deity as per desire of the devotee(s). Again he can also show many miracle phenomena as per his or devotees will. We mention some phenomena which exhibits miracle power of the Lord. We discuss in brief some of the above power of the lord.

TALICHA MAHAPATRA AND THE MIRACLE LILA OF THE LORD JAGANNATH DEVA

Talicha Mahapatra was a brahmin priest of Jagannath Deva. He was a real devotee of the Lord and always render devotional services to the Lord. It was a rule that when the king of Orissa came to visit the Lord he was presented mala/malas offered to the Lord. One day due to some reason garlands of flower could not be collected to offer to the Lord. Finding no alternative Talicha Mahapatra offered the garland on his neck to the Lord. Thereafter the offered mala was given to the king. The king found a long hair in it and asked the Mahapatra the reason behind this. Mahapatra, thinking of the King's rigorous punishment said to him that since some times ago new hairs have grown on the head of the Lord. The king then said that he will examine the truth of Mahapatra's words in the next morning, and Mahapatra will have to prove his own statement.

The king then left the temple. Mahapatra then returned to the temple. He was thinking about his lie statement about the hair of the Lord. He feared from two angles; one is the possible punishment of the king and the other one from the Lord Himself due to his false statement. He then cried to the Lord to pardon as well as to save him from the punishment. He was begging to the Lord and continuously crying for his offenses. At one time he left the temple.

In the night the Lord came to him in dream. He said listen my dear son, don't fear I am always with you and will save you from any punishment from the king. The Lord, moreover reminded Mahapatra of His declaration.

"na me bhakta pranashanti" (gita 9/31)

The Supreme Personality of Godhead here declares that His real devotees never perishes. Jagannathdeva further said: you will go to the temple next day and you will see transparent hairs on my head. You will be then able to show the king these hairs. At one time the dream is over. Talicha Mahapatra then rises from his bed. He then started to go to the temple before the sun rises. He reached the temple. Then after opening the door he saw many long black hairs on the head of the Lord. Observing this

Mahapatra became very glad and understood that to save him from the anger as well as punishmennt of the king the Lord has expressed this divine Lila.

After sometime the king arrived in the temple and wanted to see the long hairs of the Lord. Talicha Mahapatra, by the grace of the Lord, without any fear said to the king , kindly follow me and come to the near of the Lord and you will see many black hairs on His head. The king came and found the same. But he did not believe such a divine act of the Lord. In order to test these hairs are actual or artificial, the foolish and stupid king turn up those hairs and at once blood becomes rolling from the head of the Lord. Seeing this the king became very fearful and he fell down on the ground and became senseless.

The followers as well as some pandas served the king and after some time the king recovered his sense. He then fell down on the foot of Talicha Mahapatra and began to beg pardon continuously. Mahapatra picked up the king from the ground and said; "all these happened due to the divine grace of the Lord only".

After some time the king and the Mahapatra again went to the back of the Lord. At that time they could not found any hair on the head of the Jagannath. In this way the Lord showed His divine Lila to protect His real devotee and at the same time destroyed the envy of the king.

ACCEPTING OF COCONUT AND MANGO FROM THE BALIGRAMBASI

The Lord said that he always prefers the devotional services from a real devotee, in pother words the Lord always prefers the unconditional services rendered by His real devotee(s). The Lord is so much merciful that if a real devotee offers Him anything even through mind He accepts it unconditionally. Even if a devotee offers Him through a third person, he accepts it with great satisfaction. Here we cite an example.

A poor but real devotee of the Lord lived in a village near Puri named Baligram. His name was Dasia Bouri (a lower caste and class of people). Since he lived in the village Baligram, he was generally known as Baligram Dasia. Although poor he was a real devotee of Jagannath Deva. Due to his intimate devotional services, the Lord once told him to see His blue-chakra of His temple whenever Dasia visits Puri (Nilachal). As soon as Dasia put his eyes on the chakra, Lord Himself would appear and whatever Dasia will offer personally or even through anyone He will accept those at once.

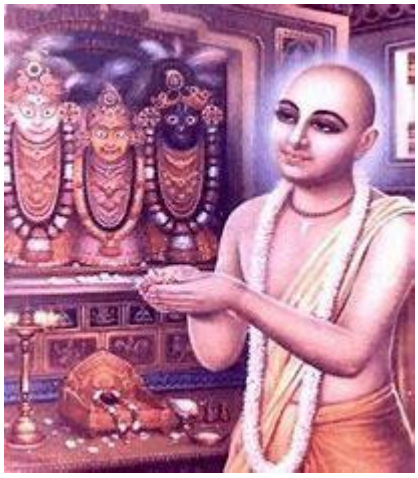
At one time Dasia Bouri could collect a big coconut in exchange for the cloth made by him. He was dancing and singing because it would be possible to offer that coconut to Jagannathdeva. He then sent the coconut through a bramhin who was going to Nilachal at that time. He requested the bramhin to stand behind the tomb of Garurdeva and then offer the coconut to the Lord in the name of Dasia Bouri. This was an unreal proposal to the bramhin and he laughed at Dasia Bouri. After this he accepted the coconut and went to Puri (Nilachal). He worshipped the Lord for his own welfare. Then due to curiosity he went behind the tomb of Garurdeva and then offered the coconut in the name of Dasia Bouri to the Lord. The bramhin saw in wonder that the accepted the coconut by expanding His hand from the throne. By seeing this very divine action of the Lord, the bramhin at once wondered very much.

Again at one time by collecting 40 very big and sweet mangoes Dasia Bouri went to Puri for offering those to his beloved Lord. But some Pandas did not agree with such type of offering rather they urged Dasia to handover the mangoes to them for offering to the Lord. Finding no other alternative Dasia came backward then he looked at the Chakra of the Lord's temple and began to offer the mangoes one by one. And the Lord also taking the same one after another. All devotees standing around Dasia became astonished how the Lord was accepting the offered mangoes in a systematic way. How the mangoes were picked up, who was picking and what would be ultimate result? People assembled there also put many questions to Dasia. Dasia replied, that the Lord is eating the mangoes one by one and if anyone do not believe

me please go to the temple and you will see the mango's cover and ayati(mango seed). Some Pandas and people, out of curiosity went to the temple and found the same as claimed by Dasia.

THE WONDERFUL STORY OF CREATION OF SVETA GANGA IN PURI DHAMA

Sachidevi was a princess of Puntia kingdom. She remained unmarried throughout her life. At one time she came to Puri Dhama and devoted herself to worship a Shalagram Shila of the cottage of Sarvabhouma Bhattacharjee. She always renders devotional services of the Lord.



At one time many devotees of Puri Dhama arranged to take their bath in the Ganga river, but she did not go because she thought that due to this her devotional services to the Lord may be disrupted.

Jagannathdeva could come to know His devotee's mental sorrowness. The Lord came through a dream to His devotee and said you could not go for bathing in the Ganga due to My services. My dear daughter, don't mind, you would be able to make a bath in the Sveta-Ganga on the day of My Snan-Jatra in your devotional place at that date Gangadevi Herself would come to your place, at the fixed date. The princess took her bath at night in the Sveta-Ganga but due to strong wave of the Ganga, she floated and at one time reached in the interior position of the Lord. In addition to this, she found the bath of many devotee in the Ganges.

Some Pandas found her and thought her as a thief to steal the valuable articles of the Lord and as such they arrested her. But Jagannathdeva, seeing the sufferings of His devotee, came to the king through a dream at night and informed the king Mukundadev that for bathing this most devotional lady He delivered the Gangadevi from His lotus feet. Hearing this the king ordered the Parichas to free the princess Sachidevi and begged pardon to her again and again.

ENTRANCE OF GANGADEVI IN A WELL IN PURIMATH

At one time there was a well in the math of Puri Goswami. But its water was not transparent rather mixed with mud. As a result the water of the well was not good for everyday use. Mahaprabhu knew that if anyone could touch the water of this well he would have been liberated from this mundane world. This is why one day He came at that place. He then raised His two hands above and told the assembled people- "I pray to Jagannathdeva that may Gangadevi enter into the well. Due to the due order of Jagannathdeva left Bhogvati Ganga enter into this well".

Hearing this the assembled devotees began to chant the holy Nama loudly. The devotees now see that the well has been filled in by fresh and transparent water.

In this way by the grace of Jagannathdeva, a muddy well transformed into a well with fresh and transparent water.

I am grateful to Suraj Prasad for typing an article. May Jagannathdeva bless him.